

REMARKS

Claims 1-17 are now pending in the application. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. 4102

Claims 1, 5-6, 12 and 16-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Williams et al. (U.S. Pub. No. 2003/0055812). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

With respect to claim 1, Williams does not show, teach or suggest inputting a description of a problem to a database and at least one hint for assisting in diagnosing the problem. The hint includes a file that includes a suggestion from an engineering group. Whenever a request to order the at least one part is entered into the parts ordering system or an inquiry for the part is made to the parts catalog system, the hint is displayed.

The Examiner asserts that hints, as in claim 1, correspond to notes in a my notes column 399 in a spreadsheet of Williams. Page 2 of the Office Action. The Examiner further asserts that a parts/detailed description field 610 displays a hint. Page 4 of the Office Action. However, the my notes column 399 in Williams merely includes information relating to repair or replacement of a specific part on a particular vehicle. In contrast, the parts/detailed description field 610 merely includes information relating to the part in general or to the function of the part in general. Paragraph [0046] of Williams.

In other words, the my notes column 399 and the parts/detailed description field 610 correspond to different things in Williams. The Examiner is therefore picking only so much of portions of Williams that support his position while ignoring what the reference fairly teaches.

In claim 1, the hint includes a file that includes a suggestion from an engineering group. Whenever a request to order the at least one part is entered into the parts ordering system or an inquiry for the part is made to the parts catalog system, the hint will be displayed. Therefore, on its face, the hint includes more than notes relating to repair/replacement of a specific part, as in the my notes column 399, and also includes more than a function part description, as in the parts/detailed description field 610. Thus, even if the features of the my notes column 399 and the features of the parts/detailed description field 610 are combined as suggested by the Examiner, they still do not include all the features of the hints of claim 1.

The Examiner asserts that the "notes" and "information" of Williams are equivalent to hints. Notes/information are not hints. As best understood by Applicant, Williams is primarily concerned with authenticating vehicle parts and providing access to a database of standard repairs including notes and information that coincide with the parts. Merely providing access to a database of standard vehicle repairs, as in Williams, is common in the prior art. In other words, database access is not a hint. A hint provides insight as to the solution to a problem. In Claim 1, a hint includes a suggestion from an engineering group for resolving at least one of a failure mode of the at least one component part and a repair related to the at least one component part, which clearly differs from database access, as in Williams.

For anticipation to be present under 35 U.S.C §102(b), there must be no difference between the claimed invention and the reference disclosure as viewed by one skilled in the field of the invention. Scripps Clinic & Res. Found. V. Genentech, Inc., 18 USPQ.2d 1001 (Fed. Cir. 1991).

All of the limitations of the claim must be inherent or expressly disclosed and must be arranged as in the claim. Constant v. Advanced Micro-Devices, Inc., 7 USPQ.2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1988). Williams does not show, teach, or suggest a hint file for assisting in diagnosing a problem, as in Claim 1.

Therefore, claim 1 is allowable for at least these reasons. Claims 7 and 12 are allowable for at least similar reasons as claim 1. Claims 2-6, 8-11, and 13-17 ultimately depend from claims 1, 7, and 12 and are allowable for at least similar reasons.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 2-4, 7, 10-11, 13-14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Williams et al. (U.S. Pub. No. 2003/0055812) in view of Squeglia et al. (U.S. Pub. No. 2002/0156692). Claim 9 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Squeglia et al. and Williams et al. and further in view of Demetriades et al. (U.S. Pub. No. 2004/0010578). Claims 8 and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Williams et al. and Squeglia et al. and further in view of Griffiths (U.S. Pub. No. 2002/0116316). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

With respect to claim 2, Williams and Squeglia do not teach, disclose, or suggest forwarding a hint file to an authorized product team of specialists for refinement. Further, both Williams and Squeglia teach away from this element.

As best understood by Applicant, Williams merely includes inputting data in a my notes column of a spreadsheet during repair/replacement of a part. Williams does not include a team of specialists refining the notes. Further, Williams teaches that the notes are input during repair/replacement of parts and relate directly to the specific repair/replacement. Therefore, it is clear that Williams did not intend for the notes to be sent off and refined by a team of specialists, and thus Williams teaches away from the features of claim 7. The notes of Williams are included so that someone working on the vehicle or with the part will be aware of what repairs have occurred for a vehicle or for a part, not to a hint for implementing a repair, as in claim 2.

Further, as best understood by Applicant, the "recommendation authoring system" of Squeglia merely includes an expert repository and operational parameter database. Paragraph [0061] of Squeglia. In other words, Squeglia includes stagnant software that helps diagnose a problem, not an authorized product team of specialists who approve new repair methods, as in claim 2. The specialists of claim 2 receive hint files and refine the hint files. Squeglia, at best, merely includes a repository of data, and, not only does not provide hints, as in the claims, but does not refine the hints via an authorized product team of specialists. Squeglia therefore teaches away from a team of specialists refining a hint because Squeglia includes a program that outputs preprogrammed data.

"(W)hen the prior art teaches away from combining certain known elements, discovery of a successful means of combining them is more likely to be non-obvious." When two known elements which form the claimed combination "cannot be combined [in view of the known prior art] ... in the manner described" in the claim, the combination is likely to be non-obvious. KSR Intl v. Teleflex Inc., 127 S.Ct. 1727 (2007). Williams and Squeglia do not include all the elements of claim 2 and instead teach away from the elements of claim 2.

Therefore, claim 2 is believed to be allowable for at least these additional reasons.

Further, with respect to claim 7, Williams and Squeglia do not teach, disclose, or suggest forwarding the refined hint file to an approval organization for review, further refinement if necessary, and approval, resulting in an approved hint file. Further, both Williams and Squeglia teach away from this element.

As best understood by Applicant, Williams merely includes inputting data in a my notes column of a spreadsheet during repair/replacement of a part. Williams does not include an approval organization for review of the notes. Further, Williams teaches that the notes are input during repair/replacement of parts and relate directly to the specific repair/replacement. Therefore, it is clear that Williams did not intend for the notes to be sent off and refined by an approval organization, and thus Williams teaches away from the features of claim 7. The notes of Williams are included so that someone working on the vehicle or with the part will be aware of what repairs have occurred for a vehicle or for a part, not to a hint for implementing a repair, as in claim 7.

Further, as best understood by Applicant, the "recommendation authoring system" of Squeglia merely includes an expert repository and operational parameter database. Paragraph [0061] of Squeglia. In other words, Squeglia includes stagnant software that helps diagnose a problem, not an approval organization for review of a hint, as in claim 7. The approval organization of claim 7 receives hint files and refines the hint files. Squeglia, at best, merely includes a repository of data, and, not only does not provide hints, as in the claims, but does not refine the hints via an approval organization. Squeglia therefore teaches away from an approval organization refining a hint because Squeglia includes a program that outputs preprogrammed data.

Williams and Squeglia do not include all the elements of claim 7 and instead teach away from the elements of claim 7.

Therefore, claim 7 is believed to be allowable for at least these additional reasons.

Further, as mentioned, claims 7 and 12 are believed to be allowable for at least similar reasons as claim 1. Claims 2-6, 8-11 and 13-17 ultimately depend from claims 1, 7, and 12 and are allowable for at least similar reasons.

CONCLUSION

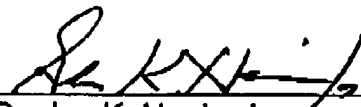
It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and

favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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By


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